

Good morning Jerri-Joanne

As the Employment Services Team Leader for March of Dimes Canada I would like to request an opportunity to make a presentation (delegate status) to the Accessibility Advisory Committee to discuss Disabilities Mentoring Day (DMD). DMD is a full day networking and mentoring event where people who self identify as having a disability are matched with an employer mentor in the London community who is working in their field of interest.

This year marks the 7th annual DMD which runs across the province as well as in Halifax, Boston, France and the UK. It was developed by Dolphin Digital Technologies, an ICT company formerly of Kitchener/Waterloo. The purpose of DMD is to connect employers with non-traditional talent sources, educate them on the skills and abilities people with disabilities (PWDs) can bring to their workplace as well as to provide networking opportunities for the PWDs.

This is an excellent opportunity for both employers in our community as well as people with disabilities looking to enter the workforce. DMD provides the opportunity for people with disabilities to spend a full day job shadowing in the mentor's actual workplace to learn if their job goal is right for them, if/how their disability will impact their career choice, to connect with potential employment opportunities and to learn of hiring requirements etc.

We are seeking the support of City Hall both to participate as potential mentors and to promote the event throughout the city.

I have attached the 2016 Final Report for your review. This provides significant information on the outcome of the day across Ontario as well as mentee and mentor quotes and comments, relevant statistical information etc. This event is currently supported by many provincial employers including CBC, BMO, Sodexo, Manulife Financial, Desire2Learn, BellMedia and Corus Entertainment to name a few.

Please advise of any next steps I need to take for this request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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**Please note our office has moved to 236 Victoria Street North, Unit 1B, Kitchener.**

**Lisa Livingston, Bsc Hons Kin, RRP, CVP** | Employment Services Team Leader

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